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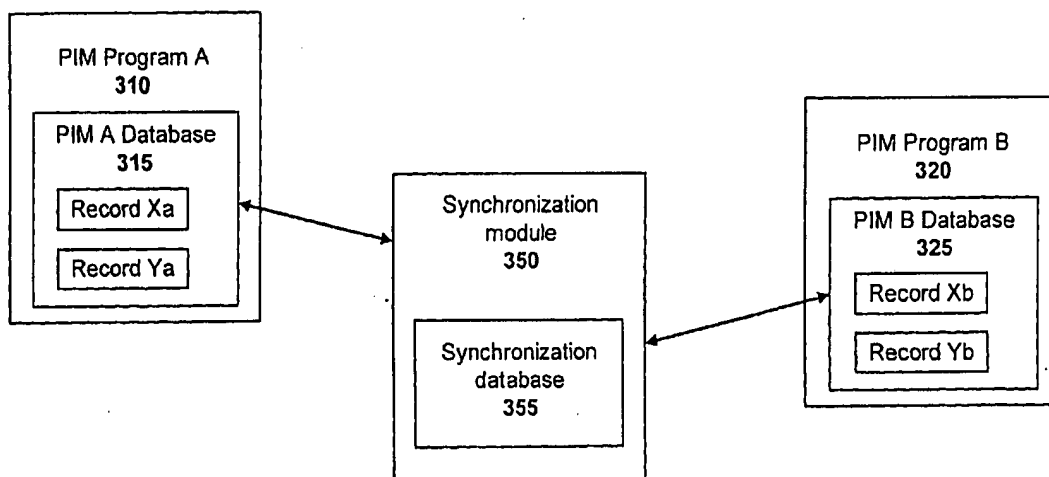
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(54) **Method and apparatus for synchronizing multiple databases**

(57) A database synchronization system is disclosed. In the database synchronization system, a synchronization database (355) is created. The synchronization database stores a relative sent time that specifies when each database last attempted to send records to each other database, a relative receive time that specifies when each database last attempted to received records from each other database, and a relative record modified time that specifies when each record in each database was last created or modified. The synchronization system operates by comparing each record mod-

ified time to the relative sent time and the relative receive time. Records are only sent from a first database (315) to a second database (325) if the relative record modified time for that record designates a later time than the relative sent time that specifies when the first database last sent records to the second database and the relative record modified time specifies an earlier time than the relative receive time that specifies the time the first database last received records from the second database. To eliminate possible loops, identical records are discarded.



**Fig. 3**